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N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

^{*} As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using indicators. Over 300 Institutions are now using it.

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C. T. DAVIS, Secretary and Librarian."

^{*} The Cotgreave Racks are in use at some 50 Libraries and Literary Institutions, from which similar testimonials have been received.

THE CONTENTS-SUBJECT INDEX,

TO GENERAL AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

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"A 'Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature' would, if properly done, be a great time-saving machine. Such a work is being undertaken by Mr. A. Cotgreave. The first part, which is now before us, is distinctly promising. It will be helpful to many students and readers."

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"The Editor of the 'DUBLIN REVIEW' (Canon Moyes), desires me to thank you for the specimen of the 'Contents-Subject Index,' and to say that he has formed a high opinion of it, in fact he has already found it useful."

T. W. HUNTER, Librarian, Archbishop's House, Westminster."

Similar expressions of opinion have been received from a large number of leading journals, and from many well known English and American Librarians.

N.B.—The Contents-Subject Index will be supplied to all Library Assistants at a reduced price, if applied for before publication.

Full particulars of the above and also of other Library Aids sent upon application.





The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 15.

MARCH, 1899.

Published Monthly

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. FOURTH SESSION. YEAR 1898-9.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

In accordance with Rule 7, clause (c), a requisition has been made to summon a Special General Meeting to so alter Rule 6 that a provision may be made at the next Annual Meeting for the election of a fixed number of London members and of country members to the Committee. This meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8th, at Cripplegate Institute, Golden Lane, E.C., and will be followed by the ordinary Monthly Meeting. After the reading of a short paper by Mr. W. L. Selby (Bristol) on "An undeveloped field of librarianship," Mr. W. J. Harris (Cripplegate) will read a paper to open a discussion on "Lending Library systems."

PROPOSED VISIT TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

A suggestion has been made that on Whit Monday, May 22nd, the L.A.A. pay a whole day visit to Shakespeare's birth-place. The fare could be arranged, if a sufficient party go, at about 5s., and a pleasant day may be profitably spent. To make the necessary arrangements early notice must be given, by those intending to be present, to Mr. A. T. Ward, Hon. Sec. of the Committee that has the arrangements in hand.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

By the permission of the Governors, which has been kindly procured by Mr. W. B. Thorne, a Conversazione of the members and friends of the L.A.A. will be held at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, E.C., on Wednesday, 5th April. Tickets will be issued with the April journals, and members who can aid musically or with suggestions will oblige by communicating at an early date with the Hon. Sec.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

The fifth meeting of the fourth session was held on the 8th February at Shoreditch, when there were about forty members and some visitors present. After an inspection of the Haggerston Library, a meeting was held at the Central Library in Pitfield Street. Mr. Plant read a paper descriptive of the books of John Dawson, which proved very interesting. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Plant for his paper, and to him and Mrs. Plant for their hospitality.

NEW MEMBERS.—At the last Committee meeting were elected:—SENIORS: J. Radcliffe (*East Ham*), *J. D. Dickens (*Manchester, Athenæum*), *R. Irwin (*Manchester, Hulme Branch*), *P. D. Gordon and *W. U. Tookey (*Manchester, Mudie's*), *E. Evans (*Northwich*), and A. Hair (*Tynemouth*). JUNIORS: C. W. Gabbatt (*Barrow*), W. L. Coltman (*Derby*), W. Wilson (*Gateshead*), J. G. Ayton, A. R. Kirby, and W. H. Tunley (*Leyton*), *H. Galloway (*Manchester, Mudie's*), *A. Clare, *Miss A. Dyson, *T. R. Eastwood (*Oldham*), and P. W. Camplin and E. W. Stiff (*Shoreditch*). Those marked *, with certain other members within the district, constitute the N.W. Branch.

THE L.A.A.—NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

The Sub-Committee appointed to arrange the details of the proposed branches has already accomplished work of sterling value. As the assistants of the N.W. were the first to suggest the formation of branches, it was decided to ascertain the feeling of the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire first. A circular letter, accompanied by a copy of the memorandum drawn up on the subject, and published in our December issue, was sent to all the librarians and senior assistants in the public libraries, and also in the private libraries of the district. The replies received were favourable, and everything seemed to point to the success of a branch if someone would come forward and undertake its local organisation. Mr. P. D. Gordon, of Mudie's Library, Manchester, enthusiastically took up this task, and on the 8th February was held at the Athenæum a meeting to discuss preliminaries. Mr. Dickens presided, and there was a fair attendance. Mr. Gordon having explained the advantages of the formation of a branch, read letters of apology for non-attendance from Mr. Caddie (*Chester*), who warmly supported the scheme, Mr. Evans (*Northwich*), Mr. Swann (*M. Reference*), Mr. Daniels (*M. Portico*), and others who were in favour, though unable at present to take part.

A resolution was unanimously carried "that it is desirable to form a branch of the L.A.A. in this district, and this meeting pledges itself to establish the same on a sound basis for educational and social benefits." Other resolutions dealing with the proposed title, the area, the equal admission of assistants of both sexes, and the subscription, were also passed, and the meeting then proceeded to elect a Provisional Committee. Messrs. Dickens (*M. Athenæum*), Haworth (*M. Reference*), Irwin (*Hulme*), and Quarmby (*Oldham*) were elected, and Mr. Caddie, of Chester, was also named, but is not eligible, as he resigned the honorary treasurership and membership of the L.A.A. on his appointment as librarian of Chester. Mr. P. D. Gordon was unanimously elected honorary secretary, and the business of the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Directors of the Athenæum for their kind permission to meet there, and to Mr.

Dickens for having presided. Afterwards the meeting proceeded, under the guidance of the Chairman, to inspect the many interesting features connected with their meeting-place.

Each month will be here chronicled the doings of this new branch of our organisation, and we hope that some other districts will not be backward in invoking the aid of the Branch Subcommittee.

THE L.A.A. AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

In the first number of the *L.A. Record* it was stated that an application had been made by the Education Committee of the L.A. for a grant from the Technical Education Board for the County of London and that a reply was awaited with some interest. Assistants may be interested in the following letter which the L.A.A. has addressed to the same authority with a view to supporting the application and obtaining its regulation:—

To the Secretary of Technical Education Board for the County of London.

DEAR SIR,

An application will shortly come before your Board for a grant out of the County funds, available for Technical Education, in aid of certain classes that have been established by the Library Association for the technological instruction of library assistants, and this Association would strongly urge a favourable consideration of this application in so far as there exists no other educational facility for library assistants within the County.

The public libraries are already very important factors in the educational machinery of the County, and every day their importance is being more and more recognised, while they are being brought into closer relations with the schools, the colleges, and the polytechnics. Fresh developments in their use are almost daily occurring and new departments and new branches are being opened, while libraries are being established in other districts to meet the public demand. In the parishes that have adopted the Libraries' Acts, as may be seen from a table published in the April "Library Assistant," p. 37, there were at that time upwards of 230 assistants employed, though many of the libraries included in that table were then incomplete and some that are now in working order are not included in it at all. In polytechnics, institute, learned society, private, semi-public and subscription libraries there are at least as many more assistants. For all these there exists no organised professional teaching, and a library assistant desiring to make himself more proficient in his work has no means of doing so in spite of the many and varied educational facilities of the County.

Within the last few years several library assistants who desired to obtain a more particular knowledge of some of the trades which they have daily to deal with the products of, and a knowledge of the details of which would be useful, have uniformly been refused admission to classes aided by your Board out of County funds. The reason being that paragraph 14 of your Board's regulations says such classes "are restricted to students who are actually engaged in some branch of the trades to which the subject of the class has reference." (See p. 230 of the "London Technical Education Gazette.")

From the prospectus of the proposed classes in librarianship as published in the first number of the "L.A. Record," it will be noted how very specially these classes will cater for the assistants employed in public and rate-supported libraries. Only one subject out of the five can be said to be dealt with in a manner suited to general students and not in a manner adapted only to the needs of a particular section of library assistants. This subject is "Bibliography." The second subject on the syllabus is especially described as "Cataloguing as suitable for Free Public Libraries"; the third subject is "Library Administration and Maintenance," to be given by a librarian whose whole experience has been gained in rate-supported libraries and whose lectures deal only with this class of library; the fourth subject may be presumed to

deal only with advanced cataloguing for the same class of library; and the fifth and final subject is unnecessary save to those employed in rate-supported libraries because it deals with the legislative enactments relating to no other libraries but these.

The Committee of this Association, while welcoming the formation of these classes, and strongly supporting the application that they should be recognised as part of the technological educational machinery of the County by their being aided from the County funds, would desire to point out that hitherto all classes aided by your Board in special technological trade or professional subjects have been supplementary to the actual workshop or office training, and that all entrants must produce evidence of actual engagement in the practice of the trade or profession, so that no attempt can be made to substitute the class training for actual experience.

But the Library Association proposes that its classes be open to all comers whether engaged in libraries or not.

While your Board expressly limits to actual practising junior architects the use of workshops aided out of your funds (see p. 57 of "The Curriculum of the Architectural Association for 1897-8"); and while the special classes in pedagogics are limited to actual teachers (see p. 268 of the "London Tech. Ed. Gazette," and pp. 20 and 21 of "Battersea Polytechnic Syllabus"); this Association feels that these similar classes in practising librarianship should equally be limited to practising librarians and their assistants.

It may be stated that the main reason for the Library Association not having already limited its classes to actual practitioners is that its membership is not so limited, and the present Council feels that in justice to its non-professional members it cannot specially set aside part of its income for specific professional classes. But there is a very strong feeling against this decision among librarians of London public libraries and the protest of this Association is strongly supported by the majority of them. Resolutions protesting against the throwing open of the classes were passed by all the provincial societies of librarians when the classes were supported out of the Library Association's own funds, so that there is strong presumptive evidence that if your Board decides that the general rules that have been sanctioned for similar classes aided out of the County funds be adhered to, the decision will meet with the approval of librarians generally.

Further, it is only just to those who have adopted librarianship as a profession, and to whose anxiety to perfect themselves in it—thus making themselves more useful public servants—the whole inception of these classes is due, that so long as the principle of classes only for actual practitioners applies to architecture, pedagogics, sanitary, electrical, telegraphic and mechanical engineering, land surveying, typography, engraving, lithography, bookbinding, &c., and no library assistant desirous of changing his vocation can benefit by the expenditure out of the county funds in classes for these trades and professions until he has quitted librarianship and obtained actual employment in his desired vocation, that the same rule shall apply to his own classes, and that no person shall be allowed to attend them until he has gained actual practical experience of the work that he desires to have technological instruction in at the expense of the County.

In conclusion, we would direct the attention of your Board to the declaration on p. 202 of the "London Technical Education Gazette," that its influence has been steadily directed towards increasing the provision of strictly trade classes in the various districts of London, and to the increased lists of such provision on the same page, to the list of classes open only to those "connected with the trade or profession" on p. 4 of the (Regent Street) Polytechnic Syllabus, and to the similar declarations of other aided institutions, and while urging the grant in aid of the proposed classes, would ask that no preferential treatment be accorded to the present application, but that the general and usual policy of our Board be adhered to.

We are, Dear Sir, Your obedient Servants,

HENRY OGLE, Chairman, L.A.A.

B. L. DYER, Hon. Secretary, L.A.A.

In behalf of the Committee.

JOHN DAWSON AND HIS BOOKS: OR,
AN EXCISEMAN'S LIBRARY OF THE EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY.

By W. C. PLANT, *Librarian of Shoreditch.*

On September 21st, 1692, at Meadow Lane, Leeds, was born John Dawson, the son of James Dawson, clothworker, and native of Dewsbury.

Owing to the MS. containing his autobiography, which was numbered three among the books of folio size in his collection, being missing, we lose the record of his early life. We find, however, at the age of 17 he commenced purchasing the books which formed his library—the subject of my paper this evening.

During that year (1710) he bought 10 books, which cost him £2 3s., including the following three, evidently intended to assist him in preparing for the Royal Navy, viz.:—"Mariner's Kalendar," "A Compendium of Navigation," and Gellibrand's "Epitome of Navigation."

In one MS. he gives a list of the fleet he was in when in the Baltic Sea, and states that he was on board the "Cumberland" in 1719, and on board the "Sandwich" the following year.

On the 8th February, 1722, he was appointed Assistant Brewery Officer in the Excise to the 1st Division, London. From the entries in his diary he appears to have been in the receipt of only £50 per annum nine years afterwards, but that he possessed other means is clearly shown by the amount he spent at that period in wearing apparel. He wore a wig, buckskin breeches, silk stockings, and arab cloth coat and vest. He also carried a light-coloured clouded cane with head and ferrule. Three wigs which he possessed at that time cost him £8, one being £5 and the other two 30s. each. His coat and vest were made of cloth at 19s. per yard, and amounted to £6 6s. His hat cost 14s., his buckskin breeches 23s., and his silk stockings 12s. a pair. He bought his daughter Jane, who was a domestic servant earning £2 per annum, 10 yards of Mantua silk, at 4s. 3d. per yard, to make her a gown.

From 1722 to 1727 John Dawson was stationed at Penshurst, the home of Sir Philip Sidney, near Tunbridge Wells; and where Edmund Spenser, in 1579, wrote part of the "Shepherd's Kalendar." He lodged with Widow Packham, where he boarded himself and daughter Jane for 8s. a week.

On the 8th January, 1729, while living with a Mr. Byre in Pitfield Street, Hoxton (the street where his books are now located), he was married to Philecia Andrews, at St. Stephen's Church in Coleman Street. This must have been his second marriage, considering that his daughter was apprenticed to a Mr. Needham the March previous for four years.

The following May the newly-married couple went to keep "The Stays" in Hoxton Market, near Pitfield Street, at a rental

of £9 per annum, remaining there over seven years, when he took another house in the same Market, at an annual rental of £8 10s. He died in Hoxton Market, January 3rd, 1765; having lived there nearly a quarter of a century. He was buried at Shoreditch Church, to which Church he left money for the Chimes.

The foregoing information concerning John Dawson has been gathered from two manuscript diaries which he kept. Each entry not only bears the date, but the day of the week indicated by astronomical symbols—a method well worth copying even in these days wherever the question of space is to be considered.

Sir Henry Ellis, in his "History of Shoreditch," 1798, tells us that John Dawson owned Dawgreen, in the parish of Dewsbury, and that he sold it to a Mr. Win. Walker, of Wakefield, for £920.

He was 53 years (from 1710 to 1763) collecting the 870 volumes, uniformly bound, which formed his Library, and which cost him £300 16s., or an average of nearly 7s. per volume.

The collection contained, according to his catalogue, 83 folios, 32 quartos, 418 octavos, 288 large twelves, and 49 small twelves. His method of determining the various sizes was somewhat faulty, however, as some specified as large twelves are found to be really octavos.

The following extracts are taken from the will of John Dawson, bearing date the 14th October, 1763:—

"Thirdly, where I have a small quarto book which is numbered fifteen and is in No. 1 of my bookcases and in the apartment 4 of which book is written a catalogue of all my books, all of which books I do give and bequeath to the Vicar of the Church of St. Leonard in Shoreditch and his successors, Vicars of the said Church, for ever, and the three cases they are contained in, on the following condition:—first, they shall not be removed out of the said parish; secondly, they shall not be lent to any person whatsoever; thirdly, the above Vicar shall comply with and do as the Act of Parliament made in the seventh year of Queen Anne concerning libraries does direct. If the Vicar above said shall refuse the said books, which shall be done in writing to my executor, then my executor shall advertise them every week for three months (if they are not sooner claimed) in the *Daily Advertiser*, which advertisement shall be placed on the first page of the said *Advertiser*.

"The advertisement shall specify that there are such books to be given to any Rector or Vicar who is an incumbent of any Church within the Bills of Mortality of London, if they will accept them on the same conditions I have given them to the Vicars of Shoreditch Church aforesaid. If no one claims them in three months after the first advertisement, then I do give the said books and their three cases to the gentlemen that are the Governors of Mr. Aske's Hospital at Hoxton for ever, for the use of the Chaplains of the said Hospital, on the same conditions that I have given them to the Vicars of Shoreditch abovesaid.

"I give and bequeath my great microscope, my hanging compass, and my two long scales to the person or persons that have my books; and they shall be kept in the same room where my books are kept. My executors shall cause to be written in gold letters inside one of the leaves of the shutters of each of my bookcases the following words, viz.:—'These books and cases are the gift of John Dawson to the

Rectors or Vicars of and their successors, Rectors or Vicars of the said Church for ever, given by this will dated

"My executor shall produce all the books and other things I have given in this article and give them to the person or persons I have bequeathed them to therein. Eightly, I give and bequeath to the person or persons who have my books the sum of five pounds sterling, which I give them to defray the charge of moving my books, &c.

"Sixteenthly, if the Vicar of Shoreditch Church do neglect to accept the abovesaid Books for thirty days after he have had notice that they were given to him, it shall be deemed a refusal of them. Then my executor shall acquaint the abovesaid Vicar with this article. If he accepts them it shall be done in writing to my executors abovesaid."

The Vicar of Shoreditch at the time of John Dawson's decease must have accepted the Books, &c., for when Ellis wrote his History of Shoreditch they were located in a room in the south-east corner of the Church.

They remained at the Parish Church till 1802, when they were handed over to the Public Library Commissioners; and are now housed within a stone's throw of the house where he spent so much of his life. A glimpse at his catalogue and his books shows that he was most methodical. He decided upon what is now termed a fixed location. The books were shelved according to size. Each book contained his signature, the date of accession and a table of contents of index, whenever needed, in his handwriting.

At the beginning or end of every book he inserted its number, case, apartment and its number in the apartment.

The catalogue gives the number, author and title, size, case, number of apartment, number in apartment, date of accession, and the price; thus combining the features of catalogue, location-book and stock-book in one.

The column for donations, so common in Public Library stock-books, was evidently not needed in his case.

The instruction given in his will that the books were not to be lent was unfortunately not carried out; for, at the time that they were transferred to the Public Libraries, it was found that no fewer than 23 folios, 8 quartos, 72 octavos, 92 large twelves, and 32 small twelves, as he called them, or a total of 227 vols. were missing.

This loss is all the more lamentable as the number included many valuable and important works, viz.:—John Dawson's Life, Stowe's Survey of London (1720 ed.), Works of the Author of the "Whole Duty of Man," Echard's History of England, Foxe's History of Ireland, Works of Josephus, Du Halde's History of China, Foxe's Acts and Monuments, Stackhouse's History of the Bible, &c. (all folio editions). British Atlas and Geography, Bible printed 1582, Present State of England 1729, History of English Taxes, Debates in the House of Lords (1714 to 1727), Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria, Montaigne's Essays, trans. by Cotton, Buchanan's History of Scotland, Cockburn's Travels, Antiquities of the University of

Oxford, History of Cambridge University, History of the Rebellion in Scotland, 1745, Sinollett's Roderick Random, Sir Thos. More's Utopia, Cotton's Works, Tour thro' England, 7 vols. of Tragedies and Comedies, 9 vols. of Dean Swift's Works, Peerage of Scotland, Peerage of Ireland, The Voyages of Sir Francis Drake, &c., &c.

Of course, cheap editions of many of those missing can be obtained without any trouble; but, as a number of them were very early editions, if not *first* editions, they would have been of great value, especially works of History, Biography and Travel, which increase in value as time goes on.

There is no doubt that had a Public Library existed in the parish in John Dawson's days, he would have bequeathed his books to such an Institution.

Before considering some of the 643 volumes still left in his library, let us reflect for a moment on the age in which he lived and think who were the writers of that period.

In 1710, when John Dawson commenced purchasing the books that formed his library, he was 18 years of age. John Locke had been dead ten years, and Bishop Ken had only a few months to live. Sir Isaac Newton was 68 years of age; John Strype and Bishop Burnet, 67; Jeremy Collier, 60; Daniel Defoe and Mathew Prior, 46; Jonathan Swift, 44; William Congreve, 40; Colley Cibber, 39; Nicholas Rowe, Joseph Addison, and Richard Steele, 38; Isaac Watts, 36; Edward Young, 26; Allan Ramsay, 25; John Gay and Alexander Pope, 23; Samuel Richardson, 21; Richard Savage, 16; James Thomson and John Dyer, 10; John Wesley, 7; Henry Fielding, a child of 3; Samuel Johnson, a baby in arms; David Hume was not born till the following year, and Lawrence Sterne till 3 years afterwards.

Voltaire was 26; Montesquieu, 21; and Jean Jacques Rousseau was two years off being born. He was 57 when Goethe was born, and 67 at the birth of Schiller.

John Dawson lived to the age of 72, and was a subject of six English Sovereigns, viz., William III. and Mary II., Anne, George I., George II., and George III. He was also a contemporary of the following six Poet Laureates:—Thomas Shadwell, Nahum Tate, Nicholas Rowe (who wrote the tragedy of "Jane Shore"), Laurence Eusdon, Colley Cibber, and William Whitehead.

As it would be utterly useless attempting to give in this paper even a meagre description of the works contained in his library, let us content ourselves with examining a few which may be considered of particular interest to us now.

Perhaps we cannot select a better one to begin with than a small book of duodecimo size, entitled "The Present State of London," by Thos. De-Laune, Gent., and published by John Larkin, at the Rose and Crown, in 1681, or 11 years prior to the birth of John Dawson.

The book is illustrated, and contains views of the old City gates and principal edifices. There is a view of the old Parliament House and Westminster Abbey without the two western towers, which were not completed until the middle of the 18th century. There is no illustration of St. Paul's owing to the fact that the re-building of the Cathedral had only recently commenced. In the few pages devoted to the account of the great fire, 15 years previous, the author states that £150,000 worth of books got destroyed.

The General Post Office at that time was in Lombard Street, having previously been in Bishopsgate Street. Letters were dispatched on fixed days of the week to various parts. A letter containing a whole sheet of paper was conveyed 80 miles for 2d., two sheets for 4d., and an ounce of letters for 8d. The post travelled 120 miles per day; and a reply from a person 300 miles distant might be had in five days. A gentleman could hire a post horse and convey his own letters at 3d. a mile. There was a penny post in those days, however, for a letter or parcel, not exceeding one pound in weight or £10 in value, could be sent to any part of London or the suburbs for a penny. There were from eight to ten deliveries a day.

There is another little book of 150 duodecimo pages, entitled "A Compleat Guide to all Persons who have any Trade or Concern with the City of London and Parts Adjacent," dated 1740. It gives us an idea of the increasing magnitude of the metropolis and the growth of the population during the past 160 years, since it professes to give "An Exact Account of all the Streets, Lanes, Courts, Alleys, &c.," in addition to other matter. At this time the General Post Office was in Threadneedle Street.

The two volumes of John Dawson's Diary previously referred to are a little disappointing; inasmuch as his entries are principally on deaths and the weather, probably due in a measure to his being an Officer of Excise. He kept it regularly from Jan. 1st, 1722, to Dec. 11th, 1763, or 42 years. The following few extracts may be of interest:—

Feb. 19th, 1730.—"A poulterer of Leadenhall Market walked 100 miles in Moorfields in 27 hours."

Aug. 27th, 1732.—"This summer the Bank of England began to build an house for themselves in Threadneedle Street; also in that part of Moorfields next Bedlam, all the old trees were cut down, and the ground new railed in and set with new trees."

Sept. 1st, 1733.—"I see the performance of him called the Strong Man. He bent an iron poker about 4ins. in circumference round his neck. He lifted a table 4½ft. long, with half cwt. at the end of it, with his teeth. He put his head on one chair and his feet on another and held four men on his body while he drank a glass of wine."

He rolled a pewter dish up so close that it looked like a button."

Nov. 11th, 1738.—" I and my dame went to see old Margaret Patten in Westminster Workhouse, who is 136 years old." (She died the following year.)

Aug. 20th, 1743.—" On Sunday last, one Dan. Edon, of Shoreditch, began to walk from Shoreditch Church to Waltham Abbey and back in one day, which he was to do for seven days successively for a considerable wager. He came to Shoreditch Church on the 20th, at even 6. and what is remarkable he was 63 years of age."

July 4th, 1744.—" I see 32 waggons loaded with silver pass through Cornhill, being part of the treasure brought home by Commodore Anson, who has just come from his voyage round the world."

Oct. 18th, 1744.—" Dyed at her house at St. James's, Sarah Churchill, late Duchess of Marlborough, aged 84. At her death she had £60,600 per annum in land and government securities, and £406,000 in money, besides household furniture, plate and jewels."

October 18th, 1746.—" Was rung on Shoreditch Church Bells, a peal called Bob-Major, 6,832 changes."

This last entry refers to the return of the Duke of Cumberland and his army from Scotland after the Battle of Culloden, who would enter London by Kingsland Road and Shoreditch Church.

Although we read in various articles on the Calendar that prior to the adoption of the New Style in 1752, it was the practice to commence the year with the 25th of March, the Feast of the Annunciation, yet we find that John Dawson throughout his Diary began the year with the 1st of January. Feeling a little curious to know whether he joined the mob at that time with the cry, " Give us back our 11 days," we find the following simple entry at the beginning of Sept., 1752 :—"N.B. The Time is now alter'd, by an Act of Parliament, from the Old Style to the New Style ; 11 days being now left out, the 3rd day being now called the 14th day." From this entry we may infer that he was not opposed to the innovation, although he was 60 years of age.

There are a few first editions of well-known works, including four 8vo. volumes of the "Odyssey" (Pope's trans.), printed for Bernard Lintot in 1725. The volumes contain several full page illustrations by Fourdrinier. Pope was assisted by Wm. Broome, who translated eight books, and by Elijah Fenton, who translated four. Pope translated the other twelve. He paid Broome £500 for his assistance, and Fenton £200, and took his share of the earnings, £3,500. There is also a first edition of Thomas Hobbes's "Leviathan," published in 1651, which contains the famous frontispiece representing "That great Leviathan called

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the Commonwealth of State." Hobbes was tutor of the Earl of Devonshire at Chatsworth, remaining with the family for about 30 years; and whilst there was accustomed to dine alone in his study without ceremony, shut himself in with ten or twelve pipes of tobacco, and give his mind free play.

There are eight folio volumes, bound in four, of "A General Dictionary, Historical and Critical, in which a new and accurate translation of that of the celebrated Mr. Bayle is included." The date of the first volume is 1734. The notes are perhaps more lengthy than reliable.

Opening at haphazard Vol. 1 we find an interesting description of our first parents under the heading "Adam." Readers of the present day may be interested to learn from this article that Adam "was taller than the present race of men; his hair was short, curled, and of a colour inclining to black." He cultivated a moustache.

There is a 5th edition (1711) of "Ephraim Chambers' Cyclopædia," 2 vols., large folio bound in one. This is said to be the prototype of our modern encyclopædias, and was compiled in the historic Canonbury Tower, which is still standing, and where Goldsmith and others also wrote. Ephraim Chambers died there.

There are 30 volumes, containing 134 plays, &c., by well-known dramatists. Shakespeare is described as the author of "Sir John Oldcastle" and "The London Prodigal." The most valuable books still left in John Dawson's library, however, are undoubtedly those of history, biography, and travel, which subjects are comparatively speaking well represented.

The works of science are of little value to students of the present day. Works dealing with the early history of America, Africa, and our Colonies, and the lives of the men who have helped to make them what they are, by contemporary writers, will probably become more valuable every year. The same remarks also apply to early maps descriptive of the geography of those countries. There are several large atlases, containing some beautiful maps 300 years old.

Students of bibliography are familiar with a method often adopted in former times of burying important documents, &c., by inserting them among a number of pamphlets or small books on different subjects and binding the lot together, with perhaps the title of one only on the outside. Many literary treasures have been so found, and, although we may not always be rewarded by such valuable finds, it is advisable when we come across old, musty, and dilapidated tomes like these under our notice, to overhaul them carefully before discarding them altogether. In fact, even during the preparation of this paper, whilst examining two very uninviting folios of maps, views, &c., of a miscellaneous character, several scarce local maps were accidentally discovered pasted among maps of various countries of the world.

Among these were Peter Chassereau's Survey of the Parish of St. Leonard Shoreditch, 1745; Joel Gascoyne's Survey of the Hamlet of Bethnal Green, 1703; and two large maps of London, dated 1732 and 1738.

A comparatively large number of the works of History, Biography, and Travel belong to the 17th century, chiefly folio editions, and include the following:—John Ogilby's *America*, being the latest and most accurate description of the New World, and containing an account of the Conquest of Mexico and Peru, 1671; Count de Pagan's *Historical and Geographical description of the Country and River of the Amazonas*, 1661; Thomas Gaya's *Survey of the West Indies*, 1677; Edward Terry's *Empire of the Great Mogul*, 1655; John Ogilby's *History of China*, 1669; Paul Rycaut's *Present State of the Ottoman Empire*, 1670; George Sandy's *History of the Turkish Empire*, 1673; De la Loubère's *New Historical Relation of the Kingdom of Siam*, 1693; Edward Browne's *Travels in Hungaria, Servia, Bulgaria, Austria, &c.*, 1673; Thucydides' *History of the Grecian Wars*, translated by Thomas Hobbes, 1676; Polybius' *History of the First and Second Punic Wars*, 1693; Echard's *History of Rome*, 1697; Sir R. Fanshaw's *Discourse on the Civil Wars of Rome*, 1664; Tranquillus' *History of the Twelve Caesars*, 1672; Paul Rycaut's *Lives of the Popes*, 1688; Hake-well's *Old Manners of Holding Parliament*, 1671; Gaya's *Ceremonies used in Marriage in all parts of the World*, 1697; Samuel Clark's *Lives of Eminent Persons*, 1683; William Cave's *History of the Lives of the Fathers*, 1683; and Bohun and Bernard's *Geographical Dictionary of the World*, 1676; also Pliny's *Natural History*, translated by Dr. Philemon Holland, folio 1834; Archbishop Usher's *Annals of the World*, 1685.

There are three folio volumes of Churchill's *Voyages and Travels*, 1704; and Harris's complete collection of *Voyages and Travels*, 1744, in two large folio volumes, which are supposed to supplement those of Churchill.

There are also 62 vols. of *Universal History*, 1747-61; 24 vols., including index, of the *Parliamentary History of England* from the earliest times to the Restoration of King Charles II.; 8 vols. of the *History of the Reign of Queen Anne*, 1702-3; 25 vols. of the *Historical Register*, 1714-28; 17 vols. of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1732-48; 19 vols. of the *London Magazine*, 1743-63; 5 vols. of the *Annals of Europe*, 1739-43; 22 vols. of the *History and Proceedings of the House of Lords and House of Commons*, 1660-1743. The foregoing sets, just enumerated, contain a vast amount of valuable historical information concerning events which transpired during those periods which they cover, an epitome of which cannot be attempted here.

Works of fiction, as might be expected, occupy a very small portion of the stock compared with the whole, as novelists were then scarce. The following authors, however, are represented:—

Cervantes, Le Sage, Defoe, Goldsmith, Swift, Fielding, Richardson, Smollet, Shelton, and Mrs. Behn.

Music is totally unrepresented, although John Dawson was for over half a century contemporary with those two eminent musical composers, George Frederick Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Poetry is fairly represented, and contains many early editions.

In conclusion, it must not be supposed for a moment that the list of works mentioned in any way exhausts the number worth reading, for although there are some which may be now termed antiquated, there are many others in the collection of great interest. One cannot open any of John Dawson's books without being forcibly impressed with the great amount of time and labour the owner must have bestowed upon them, as is evidenced in every book by the copious indexes and tables of contents found therein in his handwriting. He was surely a great reader, and loved his books; and the exemplary methods which he adopted in endeavouring to make them useful to himself and to others, deserves our warmest approval and admiration.

RETIREMENT OF DR. GARNETT.

All library assistants will learn with regret that the long connection of Dr. Garnett with the British Museum is about to be severed. After 48 years of unceasing toil he is about to retire, and it is to be hoped that he may long enjoy the leisured repose which he has so ably deserved.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor solicits expressions of opinion on all matters of interest to the profession, but does not hold himself responsible for the views or opinions of correspondents.]

THE L.A. CLASSES: THE "OPEN DOOR."

By the courtesy of Mr. Henry Guppy and of Mr. G. T. Shaw the Editor is enabled to re-print the following letter that appeared in the "L.A. Record" for February. It deserves the most careful consideration of all assistants, and its circulation in these columns will be useful if it makes them consider the great necessity of doing more to help themselves, and of remembering always that however much a librarian may do to help an assistant, the latter must work out his own salvation educationally.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD,

SIR,

The discussion of the vexed question of the admission of persons not engaged in library work to the educational classes organised under the auspices of the Library Association, which is now occupying the attention of the readers of your enterprising contemporary, "The L. Assistant," must interest all who have the welfare of our profession at heart. It is a very important question

and one that will demand a settlement at no distant date, but for a reason which I hope to make plain in the course of this letter, I would ask both sides to allow matters to go on for some time without change, in order that the settlement when arrived at may be more permanent than it possibly can be if made hurriedly or in the midst of an exciting discussion.

It may be taken for granted that there is a desire on the part of librarians to qualify their assistants to obtain chief appointments, and even *outsiders* will admit that when the applications for librarianships are being considered, all other things being equal, those candidates who have been trained in libraries should have the prior claim. In the applications made by the majority of library assistants for chief appointments, are they equal in education with the *outsiders* who are often in at the final selection?

I have no wish to slander library assistants, and my work in connection with the Summer School of the N.W. Branch of the Library Association shows that I am doing practical work on their behalf, but the fact remains that while many assistants are endeavouring to avail themselves of every means at their disposal to improve their education, the majority are deplorably ignorant, and desire *exclusiveness or protection* in order to increase the opportunities for obtaining appointments for which they are too indolent to qualify in any other way than by length of service.

So far, there have been only two centres of educational work for library assistants, *viz.* London and Lancashire. (The Midlands and North Midlands are, I am glad to hear, contemplating the organisation of summer schools.) In London *outsiders* are admitted to these classes, but on payment of higher fees. In Lancashire they are excluded.

After careful consideration, though great is my desire to see this policy of exclusion continued and extended, my experience as Secretary of the Northern Summer School forces me to admit that a general policy of exclusion of *outsiders* can only be adopted when the attitude of the *insiders* towards the educational classes can be regarded as satisfactory. No one who has had anything to do with the organisation of these classes can say that the present attitude is entirely satisfactory.

In London the difference between the number of library assistants who attended the 1898 classes and the number who sat for the examinations was most marked. In two out of the four courses of lectures the *honours* were carried off by two *outsiders*. Does "The Library Assistant" regard that as satisfactory? In the Northern Summer School it is inconvenient to hold examinations, but each student attending the school is requested to send in a report of the lectures. The dodges resorted to on the part of many to avoid sending in reports have been simply contemptible. To those students who did send in reports I offer my sincere thanks. Whatever may have been the relative merits of the reports sent in this is neither the time nor place to discuss, but in complying with the committee's request those students showed an appreciation of the efforts that are being made for their benefit that is, at least, encouraging. Those assistants who attended the school and did not comply with the request for reports were simply availing themselves of an opportunity to be absent from their work. In the course of the next few months the classes and schools will be in full swing, and I earnestly appeal to librarians who allow their assistants to attend either schools or classes—and I hope that every librarian will make an effort to allow assistants who may be desirous of attending to do so—to see that the requests and regulations of the organising committees are complied with. The summer schools and educational classes are neither piques nor suitable excuses for the evasion of work. Those interested in their work will find the classes pleasant enough.

The readers of your contemporary must realise that those engaged in this educational work are not receiving payment for their services. Men who could easily spend the time more profitably for themselves take considerable trouble in the preparation of lectures and often travel long distances to deliver them. Such self-denial can only be the outcome of a strong desire to qualify assistants for the more efficient discharge of the duties of their present positions, and at the same time to improve their chances for promotion. This

work will go on, and in the north we are determined to continue for the present the policy of excluding *outsiders*, but it remains for the library assistants throughout the country to show that their intention to avail themselves of the opportunities thus offered for the improvement of their education is strong enough to justify attendance at the classes and schools being limited to them. Our work is referred to as "the Education of Assistants." To me the title appears to be incomplete. Whether we should add the words "*engaged in Libraries*" or "*for Libraries*" I would leave undecided for a year or two. The future action of the assistants now engaged in libraries must materially affect the decision, and your contemporary "The Library Assistant" cannot do better than by endeavouring to force these facts on the attention of its supporters.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE T. SHAW.

SIR,

On behalf of library assistants generally, and more especially on behalf of those who are members of the Library Assistants' Association, may I thank you for opening your columns to the discussion of a question that agitates the minds of many librarians and assistants. A fair and open discussion cannot fail to be of value, for the attempt to burke consideration proved worse than useless. An explanation of the reasons for the differing practices of the North-Western and London Committees ought to be made, and each side is open to a conviction of error, or ought to be.

Had Mr. Shaw in his weighty letter not appealed to "The Library Assistant" for an expression of dissatisfaction at the meagre result of the last London classes, I should hesitate to enter in this discussion now. But I must in justice ask him and your readers to turn to pp. 74 and 75 of the organ of the library assistants and note that so far back as last August was voiced a keen disappointment at this very result, while the organ of the librarians was silent! To have used such language was to show a clear indication of opinion. Further, from the very first number of that journal there has been no hesitancy in the advocacy of a policy based on these same opinions.

As one who has been brought into intimate personal contact with many assistants, and into intimate correspondence with many more, I have not failed to note indications of the spirit that Mr. Shaw deplures—exclusiveness for the reason that librarianships must in the end drop, like over-ripe plums, into the mouths of those who wait longest! But this spirit is not universal, as the very existence of the L.A.A. and its great interest in the education question proves. There is a far more general feeling that an equivalent is not given to the assistant who really desires knowledge, and to be a qualified librarian, as compared to the drone whose chiefest interest in the work of the library is "Come day, go day, God send pay-day," a mechanical performance of duties irksome enough but easier to do than anything else he can turn his hireling hand to. Promotion only too often goes by mere length of service, and when an advertised vacancy occurs very often a stereotyped form of testimonial is given to all, good, indifferent and bad.

Are assistants alone in thinking that as yet no equivalent is given for the hard task of professional qualification? For how many years has there been a test of acquirement by examination? Yet does more than one of the younger men who have come into their heritage since the institution of these tests hold a diploma? How many members of the L.A. Council or its Committee hold diplomas?

I have as little wish to slander librarians as Mr. Shaw has to slander assistants, but how many of the librarians of the smaller libraries who are equally as desirous of promotion as any assistant, have shown a desire to submit to test of actual knowledge at the professional examination rather than rely on length of service and many possibly partisan testimonials, which I am sorry to say are too often given by personal friends who have no authority to speak of the work done by candidates.

Librarians in conferences and committees may pass resolutions as many as they please, but, in my humble opinion, this question will not be settled till every member of the L.A. sets his face against the present system of hide-bound promotion and of partisan testimonial that so generally obtains.

Does any librarian say to his assistant, "It is necessary before I recommend you for this higher post you seek that you show me that your efficient performance of subordinate duties here is accompanied by good general knowledge and by theoretical acquaintance with the general principles of librarianship such as is most easily evidenced by the L.A. diploma?"

When library assistants find prominent speakers on this question shew the reality of their convictions by such a plan as this they will begin to believe that there is something more behind all the talking than has yet appeared. And I will go yet further and say that assistants will not be brought to believe in the necessity of attending the classes and the examinations till they find the personal influence of members of the Council used more to this end—if there is an utter absence of those assistants who are in daily contact with the educational enthusiast it can only mean one of two things, either that he considers his own staff so well trained by himself that it is superfluous to attend classes at all, or that his own enthusiasm is so much used up in attending Committees that he has none left to arouse his own staff with. Here lies the root of the question—and without the indifference or the moral countenance of their librarians I cannot conceive of assistants doing as Mr. Shaw describes in the matter of the reports they should have drawn up on the conclusion of the N. W. school, or in staying away from the London examination.

What other conclusion can one draw from Mr. Shaw's statement that librarians were ready to allow assistants time off duty to attend the lectures without pointing out that attendance under such conditions made the report doubly obligatory, or from my own knowledge that London librarians were ready to get Committees to pay the fees of students without exacting an attendance at the examination in return? The too great length of this letter prevents my dealing with what lies behind—the class of lad that comes into our libraries, but I would commend to those who deplore the necessity of employing "board school boys" for reason of finance, a consideration whether the education given in such schools to-day does not form a far better foundation for a superstructure of professional education than that which passed for education in many of the so-called schools of the last generations, and whether it be not better, instead of useless grumbling, to make the best of necessity and by a judicious hinting to lads entering library staffs of something dependent on the obtaining of a L. A. Diploma rather than a mere service certificate, as much may be done with the despised board school boy in librarianship as is undoubtedly done in the profession of teaching. *Pray let me say that my interest in the maligned board boy is not a personal one though I much regret that I did not have the excellent and thorough elementary grounding that such boys get, imparted to me in my so-called "foundation" school.*

In conclusion may I say that no one is more conscious than myself of the self-denying labours of Mr. Shaw, Mr. H. D. Roberts, and the many others who are seeking to help on this cause, and that no one is more grateful to them than myself. But to attack errors, and to criticise mistakes of Committees is not to attack the men who are the executive officers, and a union of all the forces that are working in separate ways for the better training and the ultimate certification and registration of librarians will not come about till a common ground of agreement is arrived at. The lack of enthusiasm in the assistants is but a reflection of the lack of enthusiasm of the librarians, who are damning all with faint praise and when this attitude ceases we shall have made a good step forward.

I am, yours faithfully and obediently, B. L. DYER.
Old Brompton Road, 9/2/99.

Hon. Editor of *The Library Assistant*.

COMMITTEEMEN AS PAID LECTURERS.

DEAR SIR,

What does an "Insider" mean by his sneers at the glorification of the Education Committee, who have been labouring for years, and are still labouring without payment, for the good of library assistants in a noble ambition to lift up the status of the business of a librarian?

Let me say that any payment made to anybody, whether on or off the Committee, for services rendered, has not been more than sufficient to pay incidental expenses; indeed, little more than bus, tram and train fares to and from the lecture room. Many are distinctly out of pocket by their services for the Committee, and I know some whose time would be worth a goodly sum if applied to journalistic work within their reach, instead of to the advocacy of a high standard of education and the effort to impart it.

There are few occupations in which the juniors have had more generous, devoted, and able service from their seniors than in that of librarianship.

Let an "Insider" compare the high standard of general education (costly to obtain), the long and laborious intellectual training, the severe examinations, the uncertain rewards of the first years of practice in any of the recognised professions, with what is required of a library assistant, before he a second time thoughtlessly sneers at the efforts of excellent men to lift his own daily work out of the slough of deadly mechanical drudgery up to the platform of a noble, intellectual, and social function.

Bootle, 9 2 99.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN J. OGLE

DEAR SIR,

In response to your request for any remarks on the above letter, let me disavow all intention to sneer. I admit all that is said as to the self-denying efforts of the librarians who are truly interested in this matter, but all public actions are open to public criticism, and unless assistants are allowed to express freely in the columns of their own journal their opinions of what they are possibly the most interested parties in, you will be unworthy the confidence of the L.A.A. ; I asked you for information, and I will ask you to repeat my query a little more definitely.

I am not seeking for details of the item, "*Postage, petty disbursements, etc., £7 13s. 10d.,*" which apparently includes all payments of the kind alluded to by Mr. Ogle, and I have not attempted to question the right of the committeemen to travelling expenses, or that of the lecturers to payment. What I want to know is if the item, "*Fees paid to lecturers, £14 14s.,*" included in it fees of £5 5s. and £3 3s. paid to lecturers, and two fees of £3 3s. paid to members of the committee who also acted as lecturers? If so, the acceptance of this remuneration at the same rate as that accepted by the one outside lecturer, requires a speedy explanation unless the committee is going to lay itself open to such charges as have been levelled against private ventures, existing only to take fees for private profit.

I asked why the inaugural meeting cost £4 to report; now I will ask if that sum was not paid to a member of the committee to report a meeting to inaugurate classes in librarianship held on a day when few or no assistants could attend, and which was essentially a librarians' meeting, apparently deserving the description that has so upset Mr. Ogle. I will not attempt to justify this term, but will ask the secretary of the Bootle Technical Instruction Committee if he would hold the inaugural meeting on a night when few or no students could possibly be present, and if his auditor would pass a similar payment to one of his committee?

I think we also might seriously think of journalism and seek easily-earned money rather than attend classes whose committee-man lecturer announces that "*this entertainment will be resumed next week*" to supposedly serious students, or exams, which are so excellently arranged that we cool our heels in corridors while an energetic secretary rushes about to find accommodation after the hour fixed for beginning is gone past. While I am sorry to differ from so earnest a champion of the proper education of librarians as is the librarian of Bootle, I think that until the Education Committee finds a little dignity and can conduct its affairs in a business-like way, and in accordance with the traditions of a learned society, I for one shall no longer attend its classes, but shall continue as I had hitherto done to rely on private study. But so long as assistants pay fees to be taught librarianship by a society that holds a Royal Charter *partly by reason of its educational work*, I trust you will keep your columns open to a discussion of the present haphazard methods of the Education Committee. That some criticism is needed

is proved by the formal announcement on the circulars and in the "*The Record*," that the Wednesday classes would be at Hanover Square, and the subsequent post-cards stating that they would be held at Southwark in future. Doubtless this is but the first of a series of changes that will be made for the convenience of the students during the session, by the unbusiness-like committee that "*is to lift up the status of the business of a Librarian*" by remunerating its own members to lecture.

15.2.99

Yours truly, AN INSIDER.

Editorial Note.—While desiring to disassociate ourselves entirely from the charge of sneering at, or under-rating the pioneer work of the Education Committee, we think that "Insider's" questions should be definitely answered. It is certainly not adding to the dignity or value of the work of the Education Committee if such payments, as he alleges, were actually made, and it is much to be regretted that that body did not adopt a method of conducting its affairs at least as high as that expected by the Municipal Corporations' Act, and by nearly every public authority. Even as the wife of Caesar must be above suspicion, a body which has charge of educational matters should be above even the slightest taint of self-seeking, and while not believing that a single payment was of this character, we think that paid lecturers should not form part of the executive committee. Such practice may in the future lead to abuses, and certainly adds nothing to the value of the classes.

APPOINTMENTS.

CALLARD, Mr. E., branch librarian, Hull, to be chief assistant, Streatham.

HATTON, Mr. A. E., senior assistant, Willesden, to be senior assistant, Leyton.

MAW, Mr. T. E., sub-librarian, Gateshead, to be Librarian of King's Lynn.

MEAD, Mr. H., assistant, Streatham, to be assistant, Beane Institute, Canterbury.

SMITH, Mr. H., formerly assistant, Hereford and Lewisham, to be sub-librarian, Bishopsgate Institute.

WOOD, Mr. P., assistant, Croydon, to be senior assistant, St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

THE FICTION QUESTION.

In "*The Municipal Journal and London*" for January 26th is an article on "*The Advantages of Novel Reading*," by Mr. Lancaster, of St. Helen's, which will repay careful study. The Fiction bogey still is a weapon in the hands of the enemies of the library movement; but the dissemination of actual facts and figures will weaken its influence.

THE SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

At the usual monthly meeting held at Bishopsgate Institute Mr. H. S. Newland read a paper "*On the Selection of Books*."

Mr. Newland advocated the acquisition of those books which are considered by many people and librarians too valuable for home reading. He suggested that as the object of Public Libraries was to provide means by which every grade of society could obtain knowledge, the duty of the librarian was to secure those books, which, valuable to the few, would be, under ordinary circumstances, altogether beyond the reach of the workers.

The paper provoked an interesting discussion both for and against such a course, and while the contention of the reader was generally admitted, it was felt that the smallness of the means of public libraries precluded its general adoption.

A hearty vote of thanks for bringing such a subject before the Society, brought the meeting to a close.

NOTES AND NEWS.

BATTERSEA.—A municipal printing press is to be established.

Bow.—At last steps are to be taken to open a newsroom.

BRISTOL.—A new branch is to be built at Cheltenham Road to cost £7,000.

CANTERBURY.—The Beane Institute approaches completion, and the tender to furnish at £683 has been accepted.

CLERKENWELL.—A proposition for a branch at Pentonville is under consideration.

COLNE.—A technical institute and library to cost £9,000 are to be erected.

CONWAY.—A town's meeting is to be called to consider the adoption of the Acts.

GRIMSBY.—The Council have appointed a committee to put the Acts into execution.

HULL.—The design of Mr. J. S. Gibson has been selected for the new Central Library—the fifth in the town.

ILFRACOMBE.—By a majority of one the Council have declined to adopt the Acts.

IPSWICH.—The library is to be enlarged at a cost of £3,000.

KILLEAN, N.B.—Last month was opened a library and museum, built at a cost of £10,000, by Mr. J. M. Hall, of Tangy and Killean.

LIVERPOOL.—A branch being wanted in the south, a proposal has been made to raise the rate to 1½d.

NEWINGTON.—The executors of the late Miss Flower Squire have handed over her bequest of 850 books and various museum exhibits to the library.

NEWTOWN, MON.—The plans of the new library have been passed.

NORWICH.—All fines are set aside for the maintenance of the local collection of books, which is rapidly becoming a very valuable one.

PUTNEY.—Mr. C. F. Tweney, librarian, writes:—"I notice in your very interesting January number, under the head 'Putney,' a notice to the effect that a new Library building (illustrated in the 'Building News' of the 16th ult.) is being erected from designs by Mr. Maurice B. Adams, F.R.I.B.A. Mr. Adams' design was not the one selected. Mr. F. J. Smith, F.R.I.B.A., is the architect of the new building that is being erected by Sir George Newnes, Bart., for Putney." We gladly make this correction, and hope that the usually well-informed *Building News* will explain its mistake.

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR.—The new library was opened on Feb. 8th by the Right Hon. J. Bryce, M.P. Its exterior of pleasant warm colour, and of ornate character, set in an oasis of green lawn, is a great addition to the buildings of South London. It cost £14,515, of which Mr. J. P. Edwards gave £5,000, and the Jubilee letting of the site produced £2,000, and £3,943 has still to be raised.

WALLASEA.—Reading rooms have been established at Earlston Hall, Liscard, Poulton Club-rooms, the Workmans' Hall, and Seacombe. The Central Library is to be at Liscard.

WEST BROMWICH.—The Market Hall is to be utilised as an extension of the library.

WITHINGTON.—The Municipal Journal of Feb. 16th contains some interesting suggestions as to village libraries made by Alderman Southern, Chairman of the Manchester Libraries' Committee, in urging the establishment of libraries for the combined townships of Withington, Burnage, Didsbury, and Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—The new library is to cost £14,000, and is to be a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee. Mr. H. T. Hare is the architect, and £9,000 has been raised.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to record the passing away, on the 18th Feb., at the age of 57, of Mr. Walter J. Pickett, the much-beloved and respected manager of the St. Bride Foundation Institute, E.C.

Library Assistants who visited the Institute with the L.A. Summer School in 1897 will remember the courteous gentleman who showed them round and explained the general working, finally giving a short sketch of the history of the Institute.

For the last four years the great pressure of work has been telling upon him, and the sudden death of his brother two years ago gave him a shock from which he never recovered. He will ever be remembered by his staff as a kind and just chief. W.B.T.

NOTICES.

All communications as to the Library Assistants' Association, or as to this journal, should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. L. Dyer, Old Brompton Road, S.W.

All matter for the April number should be sent in on or before the 15th March.

All applications for books in the library of the L.A.A. should be addressed to the Hon. Librarian, Mr. A. H. Carter, St. Martin's Public Library, W.C., and not to the Hon. Sec.





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